

The Honorable Thomas S. Gates  
The Secretary of Defense  
Department of Defense  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The United States Intelligence Board has considered two major areas relating to the development and employment of the SAMOS reconnaissance system. The first of these areas is the consolidation of the general intelligence requirements of the various departments, services and agencies of the United States to serve as the overall basis for the SAMOS system development. The second of these areas is to establish priorities for the system developers and for the employment of the SAMOS system in the development stage during the 1961-1962 time period. These requirements and priorities are set forth in the attached paper entitled: "Intelligence Requirements for Satellite Reconnaissance Systems of which SAMOS is an Example".

The fulfillment of these requirements as expressed is considered critical to the security of the United States, this is also evidenced by the national priority established for SAMOS.

Sincerely,

Allen W. Dulles  
Chairman

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INTELLIGENCE REQUIREMENTS FOR SATELLITE RECONNAISSANCE  
SYSTEM OF WHICH SAMOS IS AN EXAMPLE

1. The United States has, and will continue to have for the foreseeable future, a high priority requirement for photographic and electronic reconnaissance of the Soviet Union and other denied areas. In theory, it is feasible to conduct a large amount of this reconnaissance in a number of different ways, but this feasibility will be affected from time to time by technical and political considerations that might make it difficult or impossible to use all of the theoretically feasible means. Although a satellite reconnaissance system has not yet been operationally demonstrated and is not likely in the near term to produce the quality of information that can be obtained by other systems, on balance, it should be able to perform a number of reconnaissance tasks better than other systems and should be able to produce useful information on the great majority of intelligence questions against which reconnaissance systems might be employed. A satellite reconnaissance system might also be less affected by some of the political considerations affecting other reconnaissance systems. The U. S. Intelligence Board considers it essential, therefore, that the United States develop and maintain an operational satellite reconnaissance system with a wide range of capabilities.

2. The intelligence situation facing the United States will continue to be highly dynamic, influenced both by changes in Soviet capabilities and

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our own intelligence assets, making it impossible to specify at any one time the precise nature of the satellite reconnaissance system that will be required in the distant future. As stated in paragraph 1 above, however, we are sure that there will exist an urgent requirement for a satellite reconnaissance system throughout the foreseeable future.

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5. In order for the system to move in a realistic direction and provide the maximum amount of intelligence to the country, it is essential that the R&D phase of the system be guided by and devoted to the intelligence tasks outlined below and to such additional high priority intelligence tasks as may arise from time to time. The intelligence community will review these requirements at frequent intervals as the intelligence situation develops in order that new tasks may be identified and brought to the attention of the R&D authorities at the earliest possible time.

6. At the present time, the U. S. intelligence community maintains a National Priority Reconnaissance Requirements List which identifies those specific targets in the Soviet Union

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